



“Building Communities Together”

A Networking Tool of HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships

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BEST HUD BUDGET IN A DECADE IS SIGNED INTO LAW

On October 21, 1998 President Clinton signed HUD's fiscal year 1999 appropriations bill into law, giving the Department its best budget in a decade and enacting landmark measures that transform public housing, create housing assistance vouchers for 90,000 families, and enable more families to get FHA mortgages to become homeowners.

Secretary Andrew Cuomo said public housing legislation overwhelmingly approved by the House on a 409-14 vote “makes President Clinton's landmark housing reforms a reality and achieves his key goals.”

The public housing legislation is part of a larger measure that includes HUD's \$24.5 billion budget for the current fiscal year. Funding for HUD's key programs and renewals of Section 8 rental assistance is increased by a total of about \$2.7 billion in the budget over 1998 levels (about \$1.3 billion in increased program spending and about \$1.4 billion more for Section 8 renewals).

The measure also raises the loan limits on mortgages insured by HUD's Federal Housing Administration, to help more families become homeowners.

Commenting on the public housing legislation, President Clinton said: “I am pleased that my Administration has agreed with the Congress on a bipartisan housing bill that incorporates all of the essential principles for which we

have fought during the long, difficult negotiations that led to this agreement.... This legislation will put America back in the business of providing new affordable housing, will transform public housing, and will increase homeownership opportunities.... I thank HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo for his extraordinary work on this legislation and the many who worked tirelessly to make significant progress in our housing policies.”

Secretary Cuomo said: “The bipartisan legislation implements President Clinton's visionary plans to transform public housing from segregated ghettos of poverty and despair into economically integrated communities of opportunity. The legislation also creates affordable housing for 90,000 more families and promotes homeownership through higher FHA loan limits.”

In addition, Cuomo acknowledged the role of grassroots organizations in achieving this historic legislation. “I want to thank the hundreds of organizations — housing and service providers, community organizing networks, faith institutions, neighborhood groups, non-profits, and many others — who have worked tirelessly for years to achieve this kind of legislation. This budget truly offers them the tools and resources to make a significant impact for America's communities.”

For details on programs funded under the HUD budget, see the HUD web page at <http://www.hud.gov/hudbkbus.html>.

Greetings from the Center

Greetings to our thousands of community partners across the country! The Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships is very excited to launch our new monthly fax. Henceforth, our hope is to communicate to you regarding news, announcements, Best Practices, funding and training opportunities, meetings and conferences through this medium.

The Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships is part of Secretary Cuomo's efforts to expand HUD's reach into communities. The Center is your advocate — working to ensure that community, faith-based organizations and other non-profits have access to HUD and its resources, and are fully integrated into the broader housing and development strategies of their communities.

Please think of “Building Communities Together” as a way to connect with HUD and other partners across the country. We gladly invite any suggestions for this communication. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Faith-Based Summit Convened by Center

On October 1, 1998, HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships hosted a day-long summit on faith-based community development in Washington, DC. The meeting, co-convened by the Enterprise Foundation and the National Congress for Community and Economic Development, brought together national organizations funding or implementing faith-based community development programs to share strategies and pursue joint efforts to help faith-based programs in impoverished communities succeed.

This event was one in a series of dialogues being sponsored by the Center. According to Joe Hacala, the Center's Director, "This first-time meeting of national organizations with a faith-based community development perspective is historic for HUD. It represents the beginning of new partnerships, and a new level of commitment to the empowerment of poor neighborhoods."

"Our challenge is to engage partners in a new way to support the critical housing and community development efforts of faith-based organizations," Cuomo said. "Government can't do this alone. Churches, synagogues, other faith-based groups, non-profits, businesses, financial institutions and universities can't do this alone. But together, by combining our strategies, resources

and commitment, we can build communities of opportunity and bring economic, racial and social justice to our nation's poorest communities."

As a result of the meeting, participants committed to continue the dialogue and expand it to include other partners. Areas identified for ongoing consideration, include: sharing information, best practices and research data; improving communications; and increasing collaboration and fostering partnerships on issues and resources affecting faith-based community development.

Participants included: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Chase Manhattan Bank, Catholic Campaign for Human Dev., Christian Community Dev. Assoc., Congress of Nat. Black Churches, Eastern College, Episcopal Church, Ford Foundation, Faith Center for Community Dev., Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, ITC/Faithworks, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, McAuley Institute, Nat. Council of Churches, Nat. Fed. of Community Dev. Credit Unions, New Hampshire College, Northwestern Univ. Asset-based Community Dev. Institute, Presbyterian Church USA, United Methodist Church, & World Vision.

As this collaborative continues its dialogue, Hacala highlighted the importance of seeking the input of those doing the hands-on work in communities.

Important Resources

The Center would like to introduce you to an exciting new resource for funding sources throughout the Federal Government. The President's Empowerment Board has recently made available *Building Communities: Together, Federal Programs Guide*.

This book was designed for the second round of Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Initiative but proves itself to be a comprehensive guide

through the federal grants system. With Federal Program descriptions separated into 14 program categories and a matrix to cross reference programs to your community's goals for funding, this book will assist you in getting through the maze of resources.

To receive your copy of *Building Communities: Together, Federal Programs Guide*, please contact the Center at 202/708-2404 or 1-800-308-0395.

Featured Best Practice

Doorways Interfaith AIDS Residence Program in St. Louis, Missouri is the featured best practice this issue. The goal of the City of St. Louis's Continuum of Care is to provide specialized housing and supportive services to address the health of persons living with HIV/AIDS in an effort to encourage independent living for as long as possible. Doorways is the major local organization that is dedicated to providing housing for this needful population.

Up to 250 persons per month are assisted with housing or rent subsidies. These residents access a variety of health care and social services in the most cost efficient and compassionate setting -- their own homes. Doorways operates three apartment buildings for those who are able to live independently and a supportive housing facility for those who are too sick to live alone but not sick enough to be in the hospital.

The key players in this initiative are religious leaders and their denominations, a nonprofit housing provider, local and Federal governments, for-profit partners, and nine service agencies offering housing, health, and social services to HIV/AIDS clients. This variety of resources serves as a significant catalyst for timely infusion of funds and resources.

Grantee Contact: Lynne M. Cooper, President/Doorways, 4385 Maryland Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63108, phone: 314-535-1919, fax: 314-535-0909

HUD Field Contact: Jim Geraghty, St. Louis Field Office, phone: 314-539-6533, fax: 314-539-6818

This information has been edited from the John J. Gunther Best Practices Database on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (www.hud.gov) web site at <http://www.hud.gov/ptw/docs/mo13.html>. The home page for the database is <http://www.hud.gov/ptw/rehabilitation.html>.